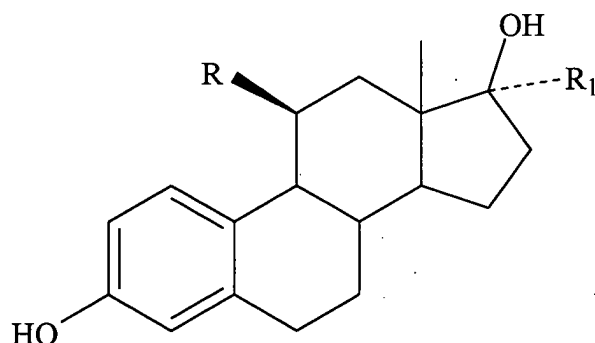


1. (Currently amended) A compound according to the chemical structure:



Where R is a  $-(CH_2)_n \overset{\overset{X}{\parallel}}{C} Y R^1$  group, a  $-(CH_2)_n \overset{\overset{X}{\parallel}}{C} Y C R^2$  group, a  $-(CH_2)_n \overset{\overset{X}{\parallel}}{C} R^3$  group, or a  $-(CH_2)_n \overset{\overset{X}{\parallel}}{C} R^4$  group,

~~$R^1, R^2, R^3$  and  $R^4$~~   $R^1, R^2$  and  $R^3$  are each independently a  $C_1$ - $C_6$  linear, branch-chained or cyclo-alkyl group;

$R^4$  is a  $C_3$ - $C_6$  linear, branch-chained or cyclo-alkyl group;

$R_1$  is H,  $CH_3$ , a vinyl group ( $-CH=CH_2$ ), or an ethynyl group ( $-C\equiv CH$ );

X is O or S and Y is O (~~preferably, X is O~~), and

n is from 1 to 3.

2. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 1 wherein R is an ester or thioester group and  ~~$R^1, R^2, R^3$  and  $R^4$~~   $R^1$  and  $R^2$  are each independently a  $C_1$ - $C_5$  linear, branch-chained or cyclo-alkyl group.

3. (Original) The compound according to claim 1 wherein X is O.

4. (Original) The compound according to claim 1 wherein X is O and R<sub>1</sub> is an ethynyl group.

5. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 1 wherein when R is an ester group and n is 1, and ~~R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup>~~ R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> have at least two carbon atoms.

6. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 1 wherein when R is a keto, thioketo, ether or thioether group, n is 1, and ~~R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup>~~ R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> have at least three carbon atoms.

Claims 7-12. Cancelled.

13. (Original) A method of treating the symptomology of menopause in a patient in need thereof comprising administering to said patient an effective of a compound according to claim 1.

14. (Original) The method according to claim 13 wherein said symptomology is osteoporosis.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 13 wherein said symptomology is high blood levels of cholesterol and/or LDL.

16. (Original) A method of reducing the risk of cardiovascular disease in a menopausal patient comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 to said patient.

17. (Currently amended) A method of treating a breast cancer patient in need thereof ~~with an agent to which said cancer favorably responds~~, said method comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 to said patient.

18. (Currently amended) A method of reducing the likelihood that breast cancer will ~~occur or~~ recur in a patient where ~~an occurrence or~~ recurrence of breast cancer is likely, said method comprising administering to said patient in need thereof an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

The following claims 19-37 are new.

19. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, additive or excipient.

20. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim 2 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, additive or excipient.

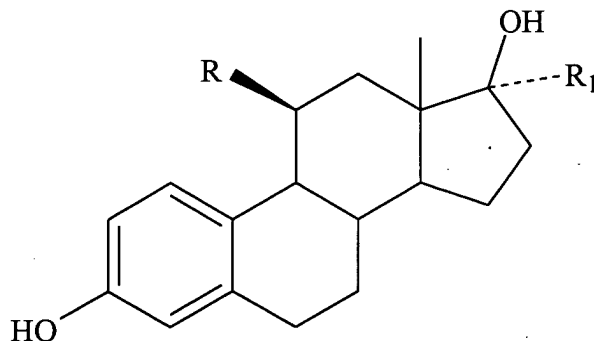
21. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim 3 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, additive or excipient.

22. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim 4 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, additive or excipient.

23. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim 5 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, additive or excipient.

24. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim 6 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, additive or excipient.

25. (New) A compound according to the chemical structure:



Where R is a  $-(CH_2)_nXR^4$  group,

$R^4$  is a  $C_3$ - $C_6$  linear, branch-chained or cyclo-alkyl group when n is 1,  $R^4$  is a  $C_2$ - $C_6$  linear, branch-chained or cyclo-alkyl group when n is 2 and  $R^4$  is a  $C_1$ - $C_6$  linear, branch-chained or cyclo-alkyl group when n is 3;

$R_1$  is H,  $CH_3$ , a vinyl group ( $-CH=CH_2$ ), or an ethynyl group ( $-C\equiv CH$ );

X is O or S and Y is O, and

n is 1, 2 or 3.

26. (New) A compound according to claim 25 wherein X is O.

27. (New) A compound according to claim 25 wherein X is O and R<sub>1</sub> is an ethynyl group.

28. (New) A compound according to claim 25 wherein R<sup>4</sup> has at least two carbon atoms.

29 (New) A compound according to claim 25 wherein R<sup>4</sup> has at least three carbon atoms.

30 (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim 25 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, additive or excipient.

31 (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim 26 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, additive or excipient.

32 (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim 27 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, additive or excipient.

33. (New) A method of treating the symptomology of menopause in a patient in need thereof comprising administering to said patient an effective of a compound according to claim 25.

34. (New) The method according to claim 33 wherein said symptomology is osteoporosis.

35. (New) The method according to claim 33 wherein said symptomology is high blood levels of cholesterol and/or LDL.

36. (New) A method of reducing the risk of cardiovascular disease in a menopausal patient comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of a compound according to claim 25 to said patient.

37. (New) A method of treating a breast cancer patient in need thereof with an agent to which said cancer favorably responds, said method comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of a compound according to claim 25 to said patient.

38. (New) A method of reducing the likelihood that breast cancer will recur in a patient where a recurrence of breast cancer is likely, said method comprising administering to said patient in need thereof an effective amount of a compound according to claim 25.